

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-7: (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~A steering locking device according to Claim 3,~~
comprising a locking device for automatically locking a steering shaft when a key of an ignition
switch is withdrawn in a state in which said key is withdrawable,

wherein a key mechanism section and said locking device of said ignition switch are
provided separately, and

said locking device is provided about a pinion shaft of a steering gear section having a
rack & pinion mechanism,

said rack & pinion mechanism includes a pinion shaft connected to said steering shaft;
and a rack shaft disposed at a midpoint of a tie rod which connects tires on both sides,

said pinion shaft and said rack shaft are adapted to convert a rotational movement from
said steering shaft to a linear movement of said tie rod; and

~~wherein~~ said locking device is provided on a lower side of said rack shaft near a lower
end of said pinion shaft of said steering gear section, and said locking device locks said pinion
shaft directly.

Claims 9-18: (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A steering locking device comprising a locking device for automatically locking a steering shaft when a key of an ignition switch is withdrawn in a state in which said key is withdrawable,

wherein a key mechanism section and said locking device of said ignition switch are provided separately, and

said locking device is provided ~~on a side of an output shaft of~~ in the outside of a housing of a speed reduction unit of a column-type electric power steering apparatus and on a side of an output shaft of said speed reduction unit, and

said speed reduction unit reduces a drive force of a motor and transmits it to said output shaft connected to said steering shaft.

Claim 20: (canceled).

Claim 21 (previously presented): A steering locking device according to claim 19, wherein said locking device is provided on a yoke connected to said output shaft of said speed reduction unit.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A steering locking device according to claim ~~20~~19, wherein said locking device has a key lock collar, said key lock collar is formed on said output shaft via a ring member.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A steering locking device according to claim 2019, wherein said locking device has a key lock collar, said key lock collar is directly fixed to said output shaft by welding.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A steering locking device according to claim 2019, wherein a groove for a key lock is formed to said output shaft.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A steering locking device according to claim 19, wherein said locking device electrically makes a lock pin reciprocate based on a key information supplied via a harness connector.